GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:577
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
CONTRACEPTIVE
K. MURALEEDHARAN;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL);T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the contraceptive Medicine like `Net-En` (invasive hormonal method) is available in Indian market and it is banned in other countries;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce `Net-En` injectable contraception for women;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether any side effects of the `Net-En` had not been tested on Indian women before its introduction in the country;

(f) if so, whether the Government have received any representation to ban its introduction in the country; and
(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. `Net-En` (Norethisterone Oenanthate 200 mg.) is available in the open market as Bi-monthly injectible contraceptive and is sold upon receipt of a prescription of a Gynaecologist. Government is not aware of any country banning the injectibles. As per our information the Net-En is registered in over sixty countries and is available as a contraceptive.

(c) &(d) No decision has so far been taken to introduce the Net-En Injectible contraceptive in the Family Welfare programme.

(e) Phase III clinical trials were carried out by ICMR during 1981 at 16 Human Reproduction Research Centres located within medica colleges to test the contraceptive efficacy and acceptability of Net En 200 mg when administered every two or three months. The study concluded that this method was highly effective as a contraceptive. The failure rate was only 1.4 per 100 users at the end of 24 months of use with the two monthly Injectibles.

This failure rate is comparable with the other contraceptives i.e. intrauterine devices and oral contraceptives. A primary reason for discontinuation of this injectible by women was on account of disruption in the menstrual cycle leading to either amenorrhoea, or excessive/prolonged bleeding and irregular cycles.

No major side effects were observed in this trial by ICMR except few women who experienced weakness/headache and three women experienced weight gain. Second pre-programme introductory study was carried out by ICMR at B&C type postpartum centres and primary health centres attached to medical colleges during 1984-87. The results of this study were also similar to those obtained after the Phase III trials. These studies have shown that the method is highly efficacious and acceptable.

Some women`s organizations have criticized the introduction of the injectibles contraceptives.

Government is examining the representation of the women`s organization.